***Codex Alera***

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***Codex Alera*** is a [fantasy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantasy) book series by [Jim Butcher](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Butcher). The series chronicles the coming-of-age of a young man named Tavi in the realm of Alera, an empire similar to [Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Empire), on the world of Carna. Every Aleran has some degree of command over elemental forces or spirits called furies, save for Tavi, who is considered unusual for his lack of one. As the aging First Lord struggles to maintain his hold on a realm on the brink of civil war, Tavi must use all of his intelligence to save Alera.

Alera is part of a large continent that is inhabited by the Icemen to the north. They are connected to another large continent held by the Marat via a land bridge, which is the location of the Calderon Valley. The Canim reside across the ocean to the west, staging regular, bloody raids on coastal settlements. A map of the realm, illustrated by fan Priscilla Spencer, was published in *First Lord's Fury*.

The inspiration for the series came from a bet Butcher was challenged to by a member of the Del Rey Online Writer's Workshop. The challenger bet that Butcher could not write a good story based on a lame idea, and he countered that he could do it using two lame ideas of the challenger's choosing. The "lame" ideas given were "[Lost Roman Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_IX_Hispana)", and "[Pokémon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pok%C3%A9mon)".[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_Alera#cite_note-interview-1)

* Directions: Just like Jim Butcher was able to combine two “lame” ideas to create an interesting story, I want you to try to do the same. Choose two existing stories/series, and combine elements of them to create something new.
* Write out an explanation of each of those things separately, giving me an idea of what the original works are.
* Then write out a summary of your world and a possible story line that could work in that world. How will you combine elements from each of the “lame” ideas? Make sure that whatever you create is new and not just a simple change, say of setting. (Power Rangers in the Wild West is still Power Rangers).
  + Another example of this could be the book series *Cinder* which basically combined Cinderella and Robocop because it is the story of Cinderella as a cyborg.

Some “lame” ideas that you could use:

* Pokemon
* Vikings
* Power Rangers
* Time Lords (Dr. Who)
* Yu-Gi-Oh Card playing
* Dungeons and Dragons
* Terminator Robots
* Robocop
* The oppressive government of 1984
* Spongebob
* Any of Disney or Pixar movies
* Phineas and Pherb
* Fairly OddParents
* Anything else you have seen/read and can explain